28th February 1955] [Sri G. Krishnamoorthi]

to tax the midddle classes. They may say ' How is it that Krishnamurthi who used to plead the cause of the middle classes suggests this? ' They have imposed the betterment levy on those who get the benefit from out of the general tax-payer's money. They want that they should pay for the benefit they enjoy. In the same way a Teachers' Maintenance Fund can be raised by asking the parents of school-children to pay. After all the middle-class man can pay this amount. He is spending money on several luxuries. He can cut out luxuries like cinemas and pay Rs. 3 a year to the teacher. This is not much of a tax on him.

" Sir, even at the present moment they are paying for so many other things. That is why I venture to suggest in this connexion that the parents of the students can very well pay a small amount for the benefit of the teacher as ' Guru dakshinai '. This is nothing to them, I say. They will not grudge this. The Government may think that by making education free up to a certain standard in respect of certain persons, they have done a great thing. In my opinion, it is not a great thing. The Government have yet to do a lot of things to help the teachers. There are many ways in which they can do this. I have been repeatedly pointing out to the Government how they can help the teachers. It is in this connexion I have suggested that the parents of students must be made to feel that they have also got a share in helping the poor teachers to whose care their boys and girls are entrusted. As I said, to-day the parents are spending quite a lot on the education of their children in purchasing text-books and so many other things. With these few observations, I appeal to the Government and also to the hon. Members of this House to see that some ameliorative measures are taken and provided for even in this Budget so that the builders of the nation are restored to their rightful position little by little." 6-p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" The House will now adjourn and meet again to-morrow at 3 p.m."

The House then adjourned.

III.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* *Bill passed by the Assembly and received therefrom in the Council : The Madras General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill,* 1955 *(L.A. Bill No.* 4 *of* 1955).

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* Circulated by messengers on 25th February 1955.